

ISB Briefing Paper on the State Interoperability Executive Committee

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Description

The ISB established the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) at the June 2001 ISB meeting. House Bill 1271, introduced by Representative Glenn Anderson this past legislative session, codified the SIEC as a standing committee of the ISB, a part of DIS enabling legislation. The effective date of the new SIEC bill is July 1, 2003.

The intent of the new legislation is to ensure the proper management and coordination of the state's investments in radio communications and licensed spectrum allocation. The legislation also clarified that radio telecommunications is the purview of the ISB.

ISB staff will present highlights of the new SIEC.

Status

Since bill passage, personnel from several of the member state agencies have conducted four informal meetings to begin planning for ISB appointment of SIEC members and to start discussing the required inventory and plan.

Issues

Staffing: the legislation did not provide staffing for the SIEC or for the agencies that comprise the SIEC. Support for committee activities (required inventory, reports, and plans) will come from existing staff resources.

Funding: the legislation did not provide funding for the SIEC. Funding for SIEC activities will come from existing agency funds.

Recommendation

ISB staff has contacted each of the effected departments and organizations requesting nominations for the SIEC.

- Staff recommends the affirmation of nominated individuals.
- Staff further recommends that the chair of the ISB name the chair of the SIEC from the membership of the SIEC.

Background

At the June 2001 Board meeting, the Washington State Patrol made a presentation on behalf of a community of interest recommending the creation of an SIEC. Although there was a beginning structure to an SIEC there was no legal requirement or mandate for agencies to meet and work together. This legislation gives the SIEC the authority and clear responsibility to work on behalf of the citizens of Washington as well as the public safety community of interest.

The SIEC is to recommend the eventual wireless radio system(s) that will become the standard for the public safety agencies in the State of Washington. Additionally, the SIEC is required to conduct an inventory of assets and establish a cohesive radio interoperability plan for the State.

The responsibilities of the SIEC as outlined in the legislation are to:

- Develop policies and make recommendations to the Board for technical standards for the state wireless radio communications system

- Coordinate and manage on behalf of the Board the licensing and use of state-designated and state-licensed radio frequencies, including spectrum used for public safety and emergency communications, and serve as the point of contact with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- Seek support, including possible federal funding, or other funding, for state-sponsored wireless communications systems
- Develop recommendations for legislation that ...[will] promote interoperability of state wireless communications
- Foster cooperation and coordination among public safety and emergency response organizations
- Work with wireless communications groups and associations to ensure interoperability among all public safety and emergency response organizations
- Work with wireless communications groups to promote interoperability of wireless communications

The new legislation tasks the SIEC tasked with the following:

- Inventory and evaluate all state and local government-owned public safety communications systems, and prepare a statewide public safety communications plan. The plan must set forth recommendations for executive and legislative action to ensure that public safety organizations can communicate with one another and conform to federal law and regulations governing emergency communications systems and spectrum allocation. The plan must include specific goals for improving interoperability of public safety communications and identifiable benchmarks.
- The SIEC shall present the required inventory and plan in the following timeframes:
 - By December 31, 2002, an inventory of state government-operated public safety communications systems.
 - By July 31, 2004, an inventory of all public safety communications in the state.
 - By March 31, 2004, an interim statewide public safety communications plan, and
 - By December 31, 2004, a final statewide public safety communications plan.
- The committee shall consult regularly with the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) and the Legislative Evaluation and Accounting Program (LEAP) committee.

The voting membership of the SIEC must include, but is not limited to, the following 13 organizations. The ISB may appoint two additional voting members. The chair and legislative members of the Board serve as nonvoting ex officio members of the SIEC.

- The Military Department
- Washington State Patrol
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Information Services
- Association of Washington Cities
- Washington Association of Counties
- Washington Fire Chiefs Association
- Washington State Fire Marshall
- Washington Police Chiefs
- Washington Association of Sheriffs
- Washington Emergency Services Managers Association
- Washington Emergency Management Division